Priorities, priorities, priorities! God invites us, through the Bible readings this week to take a hard look at priorities. Remember though, there are two kinds of priorities: those we might name if asked ‘What is really important to you?’, and those things that truly are our priorities, given how we spend our time, energy, thought and resources. The entire book of Ecclesiastes pushes us to humbly consider our priorities, and admit that many of them are vanity, just a wisp of smoke. The Gospel this weekend puts a finer point on it. Many of our priorities are ‘storing up treasures for ourselves’. But to be truly wise, we should do our best to be rich in what matters to God.

The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, during the year of Luke is not the only time we are encouraged to take a hard look at priorities. We should do it often. Think of the baptismal liturgy, or how we renew baptismal promises each Easter. Do you reject Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises? Many of the things Qoheleth would call vanities are the work and empty promises of Satan! The other version of the renunciation of evil puts it this way: Do you reject the glamor of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? (All that glitters is not gold!) Teaching about baptism, St. Paul reminds the Colossians in our second reading to put to death the old self (often focused on empty promises), and put on the new self (focusing on what matters to God).

The idea of priorities comes to the fore in preparation for another sacrament. While one question among two dozen asked of both bride and groom, it is perhaps the most weighty question: Will you orient the priorities of your life for the good of your spouse? Those preparing for marriage always say yes without a moment’s hesitation. Right answer, even if they will need years to get there! What matters to God is that the priorities of our life are not self-centered (the two gentlemen in our Gospel), but other centered: the new self in the image of our creator, who gave what was most dear, his very Son, for others.

Baptism, marriage … how does faith formation fit in? Public education cannot explicitly teach what matters to God, separation of church and state and all. Sports programs that are related to public education face the same limitation. God knows that what the media teaches doesn’t place what matters to God as the highest priority. The reason we are beefing up the time allotted for Seasons of Faith is quite simple. Being rich in what matters to God is more important than 15 or 20 minutes here and there. The redesign is to do justice with what really matters. As we hear these readings this weekend, draw the line connecting what matters to God and faith formation. We’ll do our best to teach what matters! Peace, Fr. Bob
Mass Intentions for This Week

MondAy - AuGust 1
Jer 28:1-17/Mt 14:13-21
11:00 am Bob Kimmel -
11:00 am Rosary Group
5:15 pm Steven Messina -
Michael & Joanne
Grosodonia

TuEsday - AuGust 2
Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Mt 14:22-36
or 15:1-2, 10-14
6:45 am Beatrice Darrow -
Bea & John
11:00 am Bob Kimmel -
Wife

WeneDneDay - AuGust 3
Jer 31:1-7/Mt 15:21-28
11:00 am Bob Hastings -
Dr. Therese Lynch
2:45 pm Mass at the Highlands Living
Center for the People of
Our Parish
5:15 pm Carmela & Anthony
Castrichini -
Norma

ThurSDay - AuGust 4
Jer 31:31-34/Mt 16:13-23
6:45 am For People Facing Serious
Illness
11:00 am Caroline Harber -
Nancy & Wayne Harber

FirSt FriDay - AuGust 5
Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Mt 16:24-28
11:00 am John Ripton -
Thursday Night Holy Hour
Group
1:00 pm Mass at the Highlands
Laurelwood for the Residents
and Staff
5:15 pm Donald Corletta -
Norma

SaTunDay - AuGust 6
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/2 Pt 1:16-19/
Lk 9:28b-36
9:00 am For the Unemployed and
People Under Stress
4:30 pm Frank & Jill Reichenbach -
Family

SuNDAy - AuGust 7
19th Sunday In Ordinary Time
Wis 18:6-9/Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or
11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40
7:30 am George Jabbour -
Family
9:00 am Marlin “Jerry” Wuerst -
Fran Barr
11:00 am Wm. H. Perham Jr. -
(Anniversary) –
Perham Family
5:00 pm Anthony Costello -
Donald & Ruth Palermo

Requiem Aeternam

Steven Messina
Patricia LaBue Jenkins
Betty Iacona

Sunday Communion Service - August 7
The Highlands - Joe & Diane Salipante    Heather Heights - Mary Ann Monley
A Wisp of Smoke

The Hebrew word hebel, translated ‘vanity’, actually means vapor, or a wisp of smoke. ‘Qoheleth’, or ‘the preacher’, author of the book of Ecclesiastes was a wise man. Philosophical by nature, he spent much of his long life reflecting on the meaning of all he observed and experienced. Today’s key insight? Many of the things we value highly over the course of life are just a wisp of smoke. At the end they are gone, our hands left empty. No matter how much we accumulate over the course of life, we can’t take it with us. Even our efforts to make sense of everything is but vapor.

Accepting what Qoheleth has to say takes profound humility! A good starting point – take time this week to think. What are some things in my life that I expend lots of time and energy worrying about, that in the end will count for nothing? If you can’t come up with anything, pick up the Bible and start reading Ecclesiastes at verse 1!

Beyond the Font

Last week, reflecting on baptism, our dying and rising with Christ, St. Paul focused on forgiveness. This week, teaching further about baptism, he reminds us that we are to become a new creation. At each baptism, as the priest or deacon speaks of the baptismal garment, we hear: You have become a new creation, and clothed yourself in Christ. True enough! But this is not a case of ‘all dressed up but nowhere to go.’ We have a mission: continually putting off the old self, and putting on the new. Then going forth to help others experience mercy and grace, that they too can be transformed. As we hear in this second reading, the old self is often controlled by greed – like the gentleman in our Gospel today. That is the part we need to put to death. The new self would ask, after a bountiful harvest: ‘What good can I do for others with all that God has given me? Who is hungry?’

All About Me

Our Gospel, like our Gospel two weeks ago (Martha & Mary), begins with someone asking Jesus to step into a family squabble. Two weeks ago, it was ‘Tell her to help me’. This week, ‘Tell him to give me.’ In both cases, instead of taking sides, Jesus teaches what really matters. Obviously having enough stored up so that we can simply rest, eat, drink and be merry is not what really matters. Look at the parable Jesus offers us this week, and count how many times the rich man says ‘I’ in three sentences. That is already a pretty strong clue. What really matters is becoming a new creation, putting on Christ. Putting off an ego centered life, all about me, and learning to live for others. Losing our life so we can find it. Is that counter-cultural? What do you think?

Preparing for next week:

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9
Offering the Passover

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Living by faith

Where your treasure is

Join Us, and the Lord

You have heard of Eucharistic Adoration, but aren’t quite sure what it means? To adore means to love, cherish, venerate. In Eucharistic Adoration, one spends time in a spirit of prayerful presence before the Blessed Sacrament, in devotion to and worship of Jesus Christ. It is hard to find better words than those of Pope Paul VI:

Therefore, the devotion prompting the faithful to visit the blessed sacrament draws them into an even deeper share in the paschal mystery and leads them to respond gratefully to the gift of him who through his humanity constantly pours divine life into the members of his Body. Abiding with Christ the Lord, they enjoy his intimate friendship and pour out their hearts before him for themselves and for those dear to them and they pray for the peace and salvation of the world. Offering their entire lives with Christ to the Father in the Holy Spirit, they derive from this sublime colloquy an increase of faith, hope, and charity. Thus they foster those right dispositions that enable them with due devotion to celebrate the memorial of the Lord and receive frequently the bread given us by the Father. Eucharisticum Mysterium

We partner with St. John of Rochester in Perpetual Adoration. Want to know more? Ask Deacon Dave!
SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

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On-line Collection | $50,504.50

Month-to-Date | $50,504.50


PROCEED TO OFFERINGS AND GIFTS

THIS WEEK’S TITHING WILL SUPPORT EMERGENCY FUND

Matthew’s Closet is an outreach ministry of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish; it was founded in 1991 by a group of parishioners of the former Corpus Christi Church. Their mission is “To provide quality clothing to those in need, in a dignified environment, without regard to their ability to pay”. Matthew’s Closet improves the quality of life for Rochester’s most vulnerable-families fleeing abuse, the working-poor, immigrants and migrants, families impacted by addiction, individuals returning to society from prison or institutions, and the homeless. It receives requests from more than 100 religious, social services and health care agencies each year. In 2013, Matthew’s Closet helped over 3500 individuals by providing articles of clothing and housewares at no cost. Matthew’s Closet is staffed by three part time co-managers and thirty-five volunteers. To learn more you can contact Matthew’s Closet at 585-232-5160.

NEXT WEEK’S TITHING WILL SUPPORT MATTHEW’S CLOSET

Offerings and Gifts

Taking up the collection and bringing up the gifts isn’t just something we have to do, or a ‘down time’ in the celebration – it is a spiritual part of the mystery of the Eucharist. Our offerings give Christ something to work with. Think about it.

Here is what the Bishops at the Second Vatican Council had to say regarding the offering of the laity: “Their work, prayers and apostolic endeavors, their ordinary married and family life, their daily labor, their mental and physical relaxation ... all these become spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. During the celebration of the Eucharist these sacrifices are most lovingly offered to the Father along with the Lord’s body. Thus as worshipers whose every deed is holy, the lay faithful consecrate the world itself to God.”

Lumen Gentium 34

Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)

EFT means that your monthly contribution is automatically transferred from your checking or savings account to St. Louis Church.

Benefits of giving through EFT:

- You control the amount and timing of your monthly offering to St. Louis Church, plus related Diocesan/National appeals as well as Holy Days.
- You can spread your contributions evenly over the entire year, and the Church can count on an even flow of contributions.
- You receive an annual statement by e-mail or regular mail. These statements also document Diocesan/National and Holy Day collection amounts. This page serves as a record for those who itemize contributions on their tax returns.

For an EFT Authorization Form, call the Ministry Center at 586-5675 or download one from our website: http://www.stlouischurch.org/general-forms

Hearing God’s Word

Did you know our church is fitted with a hearing assistance loop? If you have a hearing aid with a tele coil setting, simply use the “T” switch; sound from the microphones will be transmitted directly to your hearing aid, without other sounds in the church being amplified and interfering. The loop covers the entire main seating area of the church. Microphones used in the sanctuary and side choir area would compromise the effectiveness of the system, so those areas have not been ‘looped’. If you do have a hearing aid and use the “T” switch, you may wish to try sitting in different areas to see where the ‘perfect’ location is for your personal hearing.
Sacraments: FAQ’s

Q: Where can I find the calendar/dates/times for First Penance & First Eucharist Preparation?

A: In an effort to sync our calendar with the Public and Private school calendars, we wait until late Fall to provide specific dates/times, hoping to reduce conflicts – as 100% attendance is required at the preparation sessions. Generally, First Penance takes place in the winter of 2017, (January Kick-Off), and preparation for First Eucharist follows, in late February/early March. Celebration of First Eucharist takes place in late April/early May. More detailed information can be found on our website, under the link Sacraments: What You Need to Know. Specific dates will be e-mailed to all families, and published in the bulletin as soon as they are available.

Q: Why does my child need to receive First Penance prior to First Eucharist?

A: The diocese provides the most thorough information on this topic. Go to: forgiven.dor.org

Q: Can my child receive First Eucharist without First Penance?

A: No. So be sure to register for both Sacraments on our website.

Q: Are there important documents that I need to submit prior to receiving the sacraments of First Penance/First Eucharist and Confirmation?

A: Yes! These sacraments require that a raised seal copy of the child’s Baptismal Certificate accompany the registration. If your child was baptized at St. Louis Church, a copy will be on file at the Ministry Center. If your child was baptized at another parish, please contact them directly and request that a copy be sent to us. This is the responsibility of the family, not St. Louis – so please make every effort to request and submit this with the registration by the deadline of August 26th.

Q: I have lots of questions about the Sacrament of Confirmation, and the Youth Ministry program. Who should I contact for answers?

A: Our new Youth Minister, Don Smith! He can be reached at dsmith@dor.org or at the Ministry Center, 586-5675 – ext. 234.

Faith Formation Online Registration now Open!

Great news to share! We have worked hard over the past few months to make the registration process simple, quick and painless for our families. No more trips to the Ministry Center to drop off forms and checks! Starting on July 5th, ALL registration for Religious Education and Sacraments can be completed and PAID for online – then sent to us with the click of a button!

The link for registration can be found on our website www.stlouischurch.org under the Faith Formation tab. 2016/2017 Seasons of Faith and Living Faith Class schedules will also be available for download.

We are certain you will find this process much easier! In return, all we ask is that you comply with our sign-up deadline of August 26th. In doing so, you will allow us to be fiscally responsible in ordering teaching materials with lower shipping fees and deeper discounts. Late sign-ups will be assessed additional fees to cover individual shipments.
Don’t Miss The Sales…
They Are Incredible!

The “Back to School” Sales have already started and prices are great! This past year Saint’s Place filled and delivered 320 backpacks for students ages 4 to 20 years old. So we need your help to continue this important work. We are anticipating another busy August and September with a record number of refugees arriving.

School supplies and backpacks are needed for refugee children that arrived this summer and will start school for the first time in September. Saint’s Place supplies each school-aged refugee with a backpack filled with needed school supplies. During the month of August, school supplies are at their lowest prices of the year. Many items such as notebooks are as low as 50 cents or one dollar. If you can help by purchasing one backpack and/or supplies for a backpack, it would be greatly appreciated.

Items can be dropped off at 46 South Main Street.

"Getting Classrooms Ready for School" Helpers!

As you can imagine, in any classroom, there are dozens of well, sticky, grimy, oily children's fingers, and in turn, there develops certain grime on chairs, desks, doorways, etc. Plus there's just plain dust that accumulates on every surface – window ledges, bookshelves, etc.

If you like to see instant satisfaction from applying a little soap & water or from vacuuming those out of the way corners, and if you're willing to "offer up" some time, we have a wonderful opportunity (yes, a job!) for you!

Of course, we'd love to see school families help in this way, but we offer equal opportunity to individuals without children – and who might actually have more time on their hands! It's also good activity for teens needing service hours or just something to do.

Contact, Sally Schrecker at sschrecker@dor.org.

Changes of Phone, Addresses, Etc.

Do you have a new phone number?
Do you have a new address?
Do you have a new email address?

It is imperative to let the parish office know!

Since it is very important that we keep our records up-to-date, we rely on you to include us in any notification of such changes.

Call us at (585) 586-5675 or mail us at bproctor@dor.org.
Thank you!
Our Habitat House at 320 Orange St. is shaping up quickly. A two story, three bedroom house, it has an interesting, attractive design which includes a small wrap-around porch. Situated on a nice tree-lined street, it is conveniently just down the block from Enrico Fermi Middle School #17.

On Saturday July 16, we conducted a celebratory "Wall Raising" for the last of the four first floor walls. It was a wonderful ceremony to mark progress-to-date and the work ahead.

Construction is well underway. The first floor framing is complete, second floor joists and floor boards have been laid, and second floor wall framing is underway. I’m glad to say the strong volunteer response has been exceptional from St. Louis! Seventeen St. Louis parishioners, male and female, ranging from 17 year old McQuaid students to an 80 year old senior, have participated in the construction alongside volunteers from HIP’s other member churches, and the very grateful future home owner, Kereny Morales.

**Call for Construction Help**

_The construction calendar for our 320 Orange Street home identifies the following work dates available for construction volunteers. (We still need 6 volunteers for most of these dates):_

- August 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 23, 25, 26 & 30; and September 1, 2, 7, 8 & 10.

_If you have not yet had an opportunity to work at the site, please consider signing up for one (or more) of these dates_. As you can see, we have a challenging number of work spots left to fill. It is really important that we continue to have sufficient construction volunteers while the weather is good so we can make the most progress.

Call Bob Scholl (472-5067) or Rick Cusker (321-3673) if you have any questions regarding registration or signing up for specific work days. (http://www.stlouischurch.org/habitat-humanity-call-construction-help) If you can afford the time, this is a wonderful and rewarding opportunity to work alongside a family in need together with individuals from our parish and other faith groups, as part of an interfaith initiative to improve our center city.

Many thanks to all who have already given of their time and effort. Many of our volunteers have said they greatly enjoyed their time at the construction site.

~ Bob Scholl, St. Louis Habitat Coordinator
Theology on Tap

Summer Nights- Four Pack
Monday Nights at 7:00
The Beale New Orleans Grille & Bar
689 South Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620

August 1, 2016
Voting Catholic: Taking Your Faith into the Voting Booth
Anne LeBlanc
Rochester Area Right to Life President

August 8, 2016
Confession: From the Other Side Of the Screen
Fr. Morgan Rice, CSB
Parochial Vicar, St. Kateri Tekakwitha

August 15, 2016
There’s Something About Mary: Mary’s Role in the Church & Our Lives
Angela Kristan, MD
Family Medicine Resident, University of Rochester

August 22, 2016
Prayer: What is it? How do I do it?
Fr. Justin Miller
Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph’s Penfield

Theology on Tap is an opportunity for young adults to gather to discuss and reflect on issues of faith. Sponsored by The Diocese of Rochester Department of Evangelization & Catechesis. Theology on Tap is a copyrighted program of Renew International. Used with permission.
All Are Welcome

If you’ve been coming to Mass for a while, but are not Catholic or are interested in becoming fully initiated into Catholic faith by receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist we invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith.

Father Bob and Father Peter invite you to join them for an inquiry gathering to:
- explore the truths of the Catholic faith
- learn what Catholics believe
- ask those perplexing and difficult questions about the Church.

Sunday, August 7th
12:00pm (after the 11:00am Mass)
Parish Meeting Hall
PARISH STAFF DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICES - Ministry Center
64 S. Main Street, 14534
(585) 586-5675; Fax 387-9888

MINISTRY CENTER SUMMER HOURS ARE:
MONDAY - THURSDAY, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
FRIDAY, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

PASTORAL STAFF:
Rev. Robert Ring, Pastor,
ext. 225, ring@dor.org
Rev. Peter Mottola, Parochial Vicar
ext. 237, fmottola@dor.org
Deacon David Snyder,
1deacondave@gmail.com
586-5675
Stephanie Honz, Pastoral Associate for
Liturgy and Liturgical Music,
ext. 251, shonz@dor.org
Christine Wensel, Pastoral Associate,
ext. 224, cwensel@dor.org
Bea Hack, Liturgy Coordinator,
ext. 231, bhack@dor.org
Pat Spinelli, Parish Visitor,
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Suzy Ward, Chair,
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James Schnell, Chair,
Finance Council, 267-7295
Debbie Hoefl, Chair
Stewardship Council, 734-9705
debbie53hoefl@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Ministry, 586-5675, ext. 345
Isabel Miller, Executive Director,
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Phone: 385-6860
saintlady@Saintsplace.org
In Residence at the Rectory:
Fr. Ray Booth
Msgr. Gerard Krieg

Fran Barr, Principal,
St. Louis School, 11 Rand Place
Phone: 586-5200 fbarr@dor.org
http://slspittsford.org/
Dick Hilliard, Grand Knight,
Knights of Columbus
Phone: 585-943-1106
bWGolf@hotmail.com

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Page Ten St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY July 31, 2016